

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A surgical kit for treating incontinence comprising:
an implantable material suitable for a sling procedure,
at least one of a first type of needle suitable for a sling procedure, and
at least one of a second type of needle suitable for a sling procedure, and
a dilator for associating said implantable material suitable for a sling procedure with
at least one of said first or second types of needles,
wherein the first type of needle comprises a substantially straight needle and the
second type of needle comprises a needle with a curved portion.
2. (Canceled).
3. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 1 further including a synthetic insertion
sheath associated with the implantable material to form a sling assembly.
4. (Previously presented) A surgical kit according to claim 3 wherein said dilator is
adapted for associating the sling assembly with a surgical needle.
5. (Canceled).
6. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 1 wherein the first type of needle
comprises a needle with at least two handles.
7. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 1 wherein the first type of needle
includes an end portion with a passageway for receiving a suture.

8. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 7 wherein the passageway for receiving a suture comprises a hole.

9. (Previously presented) A surgical kit for treating incontinence comprising:
an implantable material suitable for a sling procedure,
at least one of a first type of needle suitable for a sling procedure, and
at least one of a second type of needle suitable for a sling procedure, wherein the first type of needle is different than the second type of needle, and

a dilator adapted to associate said implantable material suitable for a sling procedure with at least one of said first or second types of needles,

wherein the first type of needle comprises a movable inner member with a blunt end portion having a suture passageway and an outer sheath member with a sheath end, and

means for moving the blunt end portion between i) an extended position with the suture passageway extending beyond the outer sheath member, and ii) a retracted position with the blunt end portion spaced closer to the end of the outer sheath member than in the extended position.

10. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 9 wherein the sheath end comprises a substantially sharp surface for cutting tissue, and the first type of needle includes a means for locking the blunt end portion in the extended position.

11. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 1 wherein the first type of needle includes at least two straight portions situated at a predetermined angle.

12. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 1 further comprising a first type of handle and a second type of handle wherein the first type of handle is different than the second type of handle.

13. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 1 wherein the first type of needle is larger than the second type of needle.

14. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 1 wherein the first type of needle includes a bladder perforation detector.

15-35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously presented) A surgical sling procedure for treating incontinence comprising the steps of:

providing a surgical kit with an implantable material suitable for a sling procedure, at least one of a first type of needle that is sized and shaped for inserting a sling, at least one of a second type of needle that is sized and shaped for inserting a sling, and a dilator for associating said implantable material suitable for a sling procedure with at least one of said first or second type of needle, wherein the first type of needle is different than the second type of needle,

selecting the first or the second type of needle, and

implanting the implantable material using the selected needle.

37. (Currently amended) A method of implanting a sling to treat urinary incontinence in a patient comprising the steps of:

providing a surgical kit comprising at least one guide needle, and at least one sling transport needle with a tip, a sling attached to the sling transport needle, and an adapter having two ends with a gentle taper near one end, said adaptor further having tip receiving surfaces for receiving the tip of the sling transport needle, wherein said adapter comprises a snap mechanism configured to securely attach said guide needle and said adapter,

creating at least one vaginal incision,

creating at least one suprapubic incision,

initially passing the guide needle through the suprapubic incision and then through the vaginal incision,

attaching the adapter to the guide needle,

placing the tip of the sling transport needle in the tip receiving surfaces of the adapter,

and

guiding the sling transport needle from the vaginal incision to the suprapubic incision with the guide needle to implant the sling.

38. (Currently amended) A surgical kit for treating incontinence comprising:

at least one guide needle,

at least one sling transport needle with a tip, and a sling attached to the sling transport needle, and

~~a dilator~~ an adapter having:

two ends with a gentle taper near one end,

~~adapter further having~~ tip receiving surfaces for receiving the tip of the sling transport needle, and

~~having means for attaching to the at least one guide needle~~ a snap mechanism configured to securely attach said guide needle and said adapter.

39. (Currently amended) A surgical kit according to claim 38 wherein the ~~dilator~~ adapter is integral with the guide needle.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously presented) A surgical kit for treating incontinence comprising:
an implantable material suitable for a sling procedure,
a needle that is sized and shaped for inserting a sling, the needle having surfaces for engaging a handle,
a dilator for associating said implantable material suitable for a sling procedure with said needle,
at least one of a first type of handle having surfaces for attaching the handle to the needle, and
at least one of a second type of handle having surfaces for attaching the handle to the needle, wherein the first type of handle is different than the second type of handle.

43. (Previously presented) A surgical kit for treating incontinence comprising:
an implantable material suitable for a sling procedure,
at least one of a first type of needle suitable for a sling procedure, and
at least one of a second type of needle suitable for a sling procedure, wherein the first type of needle is different than the second type of needle,

a dilator for associating said implantable material suitable for a sling procedure with
at least one of the first and second type of needle,

wherein at least one of said first and second type of needle comprises means for
transporting said implantable sling material and dilator in a body of a patient.

44-52. (Canceled).